

Remarks

On page 3 of the Office Action of 10/03/2007, the Examiner states that, with reference to Figure 1, the threaded spindle 26 is not shown. In the Replacement Sheet for Figure 1, a threaded spindle 26 is shown in the upper left portion of Figure 1.

In the Office Action of 10/3/2007, the Examiner notes that the previously submitted drawings are accepted. The Replacement Sheet for Figure 1 is reintroduced in this submission.

In response to the second request for clarity on page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner states that the connection between the slide 17 and the threaded spindle 16 is unclear, and thus it is not clear how the slide 17 is moved on, or with respect to, the guide rail 16. Applicant respectfully maintains that the Replacement Sheet for Figure 1 should clarify this for the Examiner. The slide 17 is driven to travel along the guide rail 16 by means of a toothed belt, a chain, or the like, e.g., the threaded spindle 26 shown in the Replacement Sheet for Figure 1. (See replacement paragraph [0020]).

The Examiner states it is unclear how the ejector 21 is connected to the guide rail 16. The ejector 21 is connected to the guide rail 16 through the ejector sleeve 41. (See paragraph [0028]).

The Examiner asks how the cutting units and the ejector are independently moved/positioned along the guide rail 16. In this respect, the Examiner asks how the ejector 21 is moved with respect to the counter-holder 13. The ejector 21 is arranged to the left of the cutting tool 19 of the unit 35. (See replacement paragraph [0028]). This ejector 21 has a movable bolt 39, as shown in the Replacement Sheet for Figure 1. The

movable bolt 39 is movable in the direction toward the counter-holder 13. (See paragraph [0028]).

The Examiner states that it is not clear how the ejector 21 can move from the initial position 23 to the ejector position 24 without running into at least one of the cutting units 30 and 53. The ejector 21 is spaced apart from the counter-holder 13, as shown in the upper portion of the Replacement Sheet for Figure 1. Thus, it should be clear in Figure 1 how the ejector 21 can move in a leftward direction from the initial position 23 to the ejector position 24 without running into the cutting units 30 and 53. (See the Replacement Sheet for Figure 1 and replacement paragraph [0025]).

The Examiner asks how the cutting units 30, 53 and 35 and the ejector 21 are each connected to the threaded spindle for movement along the guide rail 16. This is shown in the upper portion of the Replacement Sheet 1 for Figure 1 and replacement paragraph [0025].

The Examiner asks how the cutting units and the ejector 21 can be separately controllable or positionable to attain the desired cutting arrangements to produce different length tubes as claimed in claim 39, lines 10 and 11. This is clearly explained in paragraph [0028], which states: "As soon as the flange 18 has come into an ejector position 24, the ejector 21 can be driven **by means of a relay or by means of a control, as is known in the art**, so that the bolt 39 engages in a groove 42 or in a correspondingly formed recess on the bolt 39. After this (the slide 17) is positively arranged in the groove 42, the slide 17 can be guided over into the initial position 23, upon which the cut-off sleeve is ejected. Immediately before the end of the counter-holder 13, the bolt 39 is brought back into its initial position, so that the ejector sleeve 41 remains near the free

end of the counter-holder 13, which is brought back into its initial position by loading a new tube 12 onto the counter-holder 13." (Emphasis and underlining added).

In further review of the specification, Applicant respectfully believes that the amendments to the specification submitted herewith answer the Examiner's questions without adding new matter, and do not require a further search. The amendments to the specification are set forth in the replacement paragraphs provided herewith.

A three-month extension of time in which to respond to the outstanding Office Action is hereby requested. PTO-2038 authorizing credit card payment for the amount of \$525 is enclosed for the prescribed Small Entity three-month extension fee. If any additional fees are due, please charge deposit account 11-0665. A duplicate of this page is included for this purpose.

Wherefore further consideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



M. Robert Kestenbaum
Reg. No. 20,430
11011 Bermuda Dunes NE
Albuquerque, NM USA 87111
Telephone (505) 323-0771
Facsimile (505) 323-086

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M. Robert Kestenbaum